

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph 0006 as follows:

In one embodiment, an absorbent material of the present invention generally comprises at least in part a cross-linked polymer. The absorbent material has a centrifuge retention capacity as determined by a Centrifuge Retention Capacity Test of at least about 20 g/g and a gel bed permeability under load as determined by a Gel Bed Permeability Under Load Test of at least about ~~200x10⁻⁹~~ 300x10⁻⁹ cm².

Please amend paragraph 0050 as follows:

As an additional example, the surface treated absorbent material suitably has a free swell gel bed permeability (GBP) as determined by a Free Swell Gel Bed Permeability Test set forth later herein of at least about 2,000x10⁻⁹ cm², more suitably at least about 2,500x10⁻⁹ cm², and still more suitably at least about 3,000x10⁻⁹ cm².

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

An absorbent material formed at least in part of a cross-linked polymer. The absorbent material has a centrifuge retention capacity as determined by a Centrifuge Retention Capacity Test of at least about 20 g/g and a gel bed permeability under load as determined by a Gel Bed Permeability Under Load Test of at least about ~~200x10⁻⁹~~ 300x10⁻⁹ cm² or a free swell gel bed permeability as determined by a Free Swell Gel Bed Permeability Test of at least about 2,500x10⁻⁹ cm². The cross-linked polymer may comprise either at least about 75 weight

percent anionic polymer or at least about 75 weight percent cationic polymer. In one embodiment, the cross-linked polymer is surface treated with a water soluble non-cross-linked polymer having a potential for becoming charged opposite that of the cross-linked polymer.